

REMARKS

Claims 26-57 are pending in the present application. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the claimed invention, claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, and the Examiner has issued a nonstatutory double patenting rejection to prevent an unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. Applicant would like to thank Examiner Nahid for his careful examination of the instant application.

Drawing Objections:

Applicant has attached a replacement drawing sheet that includes an amended Figure 13 to overcome the Examiner's drawing objections. Applicant has also attached an annotated drawing sheet showing the Figure 13 drawing changes in red ink. In addition to the drawing figure changes, on page 9, lines 13-19, Applicant amended the text of the specification to describe the changes made to Figure 13. Applicant believes the amended description and Figure 13 changes overcome the Examiner's drawing objections under 37 CFR § 1.83(a).

Claim Rejections:

Applicant has amended claim 47 to better define the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Applicant believes amended claim 47 overcomes the Examiner's claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicant has amended claims 51 and 56 to correct typographical errors.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting:

Applicant has submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the Examiner's double patenting rejection over a prior patent along with the payment of the terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR § 1.20(d). Applicant believes the submitted Terminal Disclaimer and fee payment overcomes the Examiner's double patenting rejection.

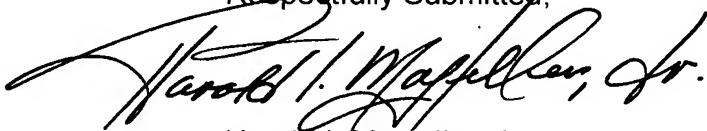
Serial No. 10/643,311

In consideration of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner Nahid to examine this application and promptly pass claims 26-57 into issue.

The above constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Official Action. Applicant believes that no new matter has been inserted into the present application by way of Applicant's amendments to the claims and drawings. If the Examiner finds that this response fails to overcome the outstanding issues, or if he believes the response opens new issues, the Applicant respectfully asks Examiner Nahid to telephone the number listed below to discuss any remaining issues before the Examiner mails a further communication in this matter.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge the required \$110 statutory disclaimer fee under 37 CFR § 1.20(d) to Deposit Account No. 02-2225. It is believed that no additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this response. However, if any additional fees are due, the Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge such additional fees, or to credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 02-2225. A completed Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17) is enclosed herewith for charging the required fees to Deposit Account 02-2225.

Respectfully Submitted,



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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

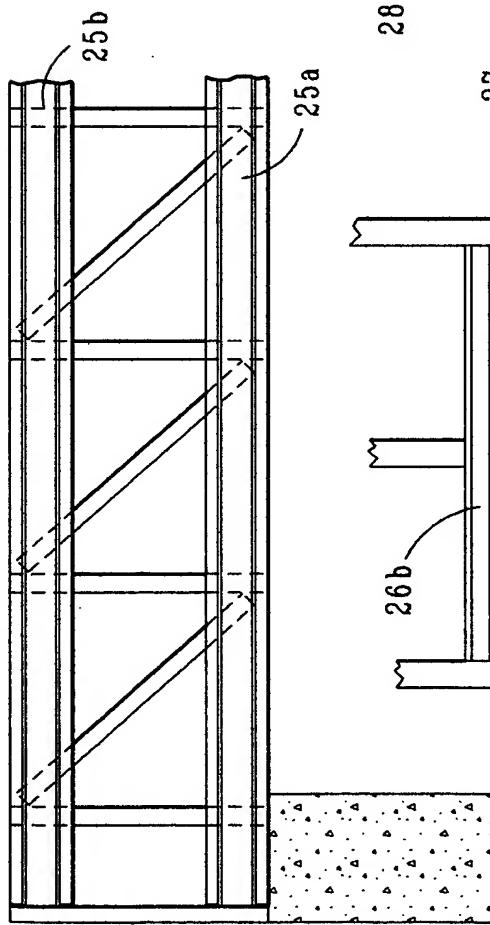


Fig. 11

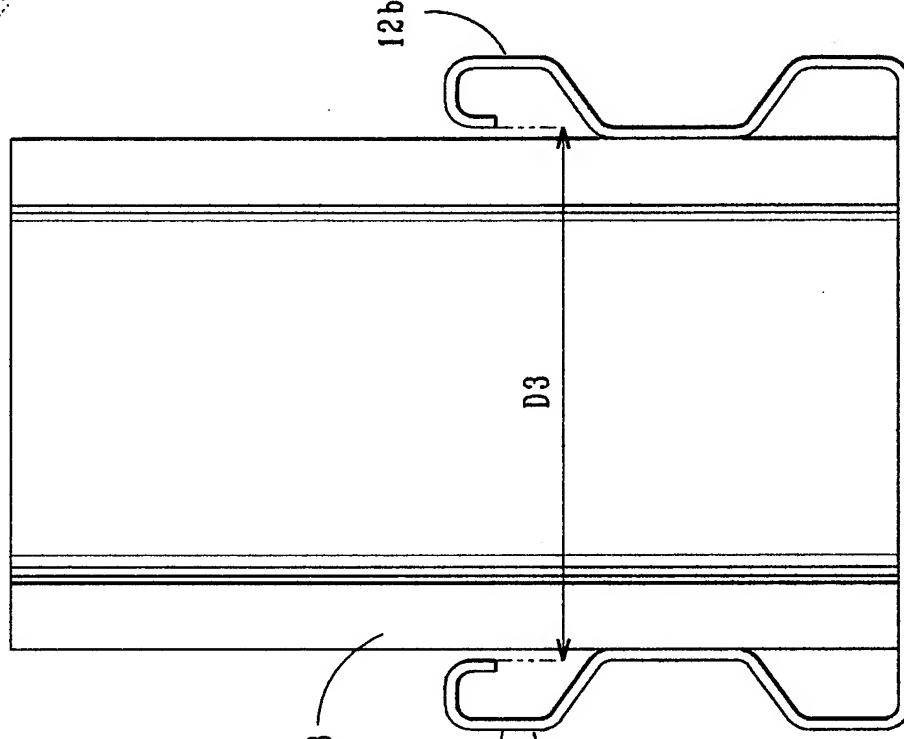


Fig. 12

Fig. 13